

I would like to file a comment in favor of the ARRL's petition for restructuring the Amateur Radio service. The ARRL's plan offer's a reasonable migration of current licenses to the new structure, simplifying the service. It is important to grant entry level amateurs some privileges on HF to get and hold interest in participation. Withholding some HF privileges until one has passed a Morse code requirement is a good way to encourage amateurs to learn the code. The code is however only one of many modes of communication. While it is important historically, it would be a rare set of propagation conditions that would preclude the use of all other modes (voice and data). Unless one is really remote, there typically are a sufficient number of operators up to be able to relay information via voice and data. Maintaining the code requirement for the most advanced level of licensing is appropriate. At the Extra Class level, one should have some basic proficiency all modes including Morse.

I urge the Commission to accept the ARRL's proposal.